



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEE INDICTED ON FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

(Beaumont, TX) A Federal Grand Jury has indicted a Hurricane Katrina evacuee for federal gun and drug charges in the Eastern District of Texas. **Lamark Christopher Fruga**, 23, formerly of New Orleans, LA, was charged with possession with intent to distribute powder cocaine and possession of firearms in furtherance of a drug trafficking charge.

According to information presented in court, on February 15, 2006, officers with the Jefferson County Narcotics Division stopped a vehicle on Interstate 10 for a traffic violation. A search of the vehicle during the traffic stop revealed a bundle of powder cocaine, a fully loaded revolver and a fully loaded pistol. Fruga was a passenger in the vehicle.

If convicted, Fruga faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$1 million.

It is important to note that an indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence or either innocence or guilt.

The case was investigated by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Division and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Wannarka is prosecuting the case.

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